

"OSAKA MAINICHI" -- Sept 16, 1941

Make Manifest the Reality of National Total Warfare!
Says Admiral SHIMADA upon Return

Admiral Shigetaro SHIMADA, who has been transferred from the post of Commander-in-Chief of the China Area Fleet to that of Commander-in-Chief of the YOKOSUKA Naval Station, returned to Tokyo on the 15th together with Vice-Admiral Ibo TAKAHASHI who held an important post at the front, and after reporting on the war situation to His Majesty, they withdrew from the Imperial Palace at 2:50 p.m. They then visited the Navy Ministry, and after having tendered their greetings to Navy Minister OIKAWA and Naval Chief of Staff NAGANO, a press interview was held at the Navy Minister's Official Residence, when Admiral SHIMADA remarked as follows:

"On the occasion of today's Imperial audience when I reported on the war situation, I was deeply stirred by the gracious words of His Majesty. One year and four months have elapsed since I received the Imperial Commsnds on May 1, 1940 to serve as the Commander-in-Chief of the China Area Fleet. During this time I have managed to deal a serious blow to the anti-Japanese CHUNGKING regime by still further intensifying the blockade and air operations against it. At the same time, the supply lines along the YANGTZE and CANTON Rivers were firmly secured, peace and order was preserved by mopping up the remnants of the foe at various strategic points, and war results were steadily enlarged through harmonious and close cooperation with the military units at the front. Furthermore, all officers and men under my command are, by braving stormy seas and combatting against intense cold and scorching heat as well as enduring all hardships and privations, doing their utmost towards the attainment of the object of the Holy War by diligently performing their military duties day and night with an ardent sense of loyalty and duty to the State. All this is solely attributable to the august virtue of His Majesty, and makes me feel deeply moved.

"It is also to an extremely large measure due to the colossal support given by all our fellow-nationals behind the lines either in Japan proper or elsewhere, for which I feel profoundly grateful. It is most regrettable, however, that so many loyal and brave officers and men have been killed in action or unfortunately fell victims to injuries or are still suffering from injuries and sickness as a result of fighting at the front. I hereby beg to express my heartfelt condolence and sincere sympathy to the spirits of the war heroes and their families.

"The CHUNGKING Regime is now practically on its last legs as a result of the close combined attack of our Navy and Army, and, on one hand, due to the steady development and strengthening of the Nationalist 'TN Nanking' Government, the settlement of the China Incident has been making steady progress. On the other hand, however, the confrontation between the Chiang supporting powers and our nation has come to assume serious proportions suggestive of an aggravated tension in the international situation. It is needless to remark that, in order to attain the final goal of the Holy War, the determination to save this grave situation with a truly united national front and colossal efforts are required. I take great pleasure in being able to report to all the people of the home front that the morale of the officers and men of the China Area Fleet runs very high and that, determined to annihilate the remnants of the foe, they have adjusted themselves into a resolute and firm position, and with a strong unity irrespective of rank, are strenuously pushing their way ahead with a view towards attaining the goal. At the same time I sincerely hope that all our people will strive their best towards still further manifesting the substance of national all-out warfare. With these words I shall end my address on the occasion of my return to Japan."

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Statement of Source and Authenticity

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Signed at Tokyo on this
3rd day of December 1947

Masaji Nagato
Signature of Official (SEAL)

Witness: I. Tsuruda

Editor in Chief, The Mainichi
Official Capacity.

Statement of Official Procurement

I, JOHNSON F. MUNROE, hereby certify that I am associated with the General Headquarters of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, and that the above certification was obtained by me from the above signed official of the Mainichi Shimbun in the conduct of my official business.

Signed at Tokyo on this
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/s/ Johnson F. Munroe
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Witness: Henry Shimojima

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